

DUI

Is it worth it?





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## **Denise Wagoner**

Denise Wagoner was involved in a near fatal car crash, the victim of an drunk driver. She had multiple skull fractures, compressed vertebrae, crushed ribs, and a swollen brain. Every facial bone was broken, her arm was broken, and she lost her sight. Doctors did not expect her to live another 24 hours. Denise survived, later to have extensive surgery fifteen times, seven on her face alone. She is now disfigured and blind, with permanent brain damage. This life changing experience was the result of her own actions. Denise was the drunk driver.



**Before the  
accident**



# 'S' curve of concern

## Better indicators requested

By David Thompson

PHOTO BY JEFFREY M. HARRIS

The annual meeting of the 2012 American Road & Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA) was held in Washington, D.C., last week. The meeting was held at the Marriott Marquis Hotel.

ARTBA is the largest trade association in the transportation industry. It represents the interests of the highway, bridge, and transit industries. The association's members include state and local governments, private industry, and the federal government.

At the meeting, ARTBA officials discussed the challenges facing the transportation industry. They also discussed the need for better indicators to measure the health of the industry.

ARTBA officials said that the industry is facing a number of challenges. These include the need for more funding, the need for better infrastructure, and the need for better indicators to measure the health of the industry.

ARTBA officials also said that the industry is working to address these challenges. They are working to secure more funding, improve infrastructure, and develop better indicators to measure the health of the industry.



**ROAD SIGN** Jeff Harris took the 'S' curve on the road to the annual meeting of the American Road & Transportation Builders Association. The sign is a yellow arrow pointing left, which is a common sight on many roads. The sign is a yellow arrow pointing left, which is a common sight on many roads. The sign is a yellow arrow pointing left, which is a common sight on many roads.

Photo by Jeff Harris for the Washington Post

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**Denise's car**  
**Her car hit a culvert**



**flipped 3 times end to end.**



**And then rolled 2 times.**



**Denise was thrown 70 feet into a field on the last roll.**

# **Denise's face right after accident**



**She lost 9 units of blood in the 20 minute medivac flight.**



**Denise's face after the first couple of surgery's.**

**Her first operation took 17 hours**



**After 5 surgeries  
Bridge of nose  
has been rebuilt.  
Lips have been  
started, pink skin  
from inside  
mouth used to  
make lips look  
more natural.  
Teeth still wired  
shut**



**The whole family has been affected, it is not just you. If you do something like Denise did your family suffers. Think about your mother and father, brothers, sisters, just everyone in the family has had to deal with Denise.**



**Denise...7 surgery's  
later**

## **Denise**

**Denise has spent the last few years sharing her story, and has spoken to high school classes, drivers education programs, and convicted DUI offenders about her experience. She shares a powerful message about impaired driving, drug abuse, alcoholism, wearing of safety belts.**



**...after 15  
surgery's!**

FOCUS: Highway 82 design

# Broken Dreams

Victim finds  
alcohol, road  
don't mix

By [illegible]

[illegible]

There's a heavy silence hanging over the room as Denise Rappert looks at the newspaper after a last look around her apartment in Glendale.

"Before this accident, I never had any stress physically among with me," said the 30-year-old. "From the last accident, after the accident, I ended up with some stress in my life, but then I got up for work and was still stressed."

Rappert said her husband, the last man she knew,

was a hard worker and had a job in the construction industry. The accident was a turning point in her life. She said her husband was a good man and a good father.

"It's just a matter of time before I'll be alone," said Rappert. "I'm not going to let this happen again. I'm going to be a single mother and I'm going to be a good mother."



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Denise during filming of “Just Call Me Crash”

# ***The Myths of Drinking and Driving***

**MYTH 1:**            **You can sober up with black coffee, a cold shower, fresh air or exercise.**

**REALITY:**        Only time can sober up a person. Many factors contribute to how much alcohol it takes for a person to become impaired. A person's weight and how much food they have in their stomachs at the time of alcohol consumption are two such factors. For example, depending on height and weight of a someone who has had five drinks in two hours will probably need at least three more hours without alcohol to sober up. Research shows the effects of alcohol take longer to wear off on women.

- "Women generally get tipsy faster and stay high longer than men matching them drink for drink."

# ***The Myths of Drinking and Driving***

**MYTH 2:** Drinking beer or wine will not make you as drunk as hard liquor.

**REALITY:** A 12-oz. beer, a 5-oz. glass of wine, and a 1-oz. shot of hard liquor all contain the same amount of alcohol. Depending on your drink of choice, it may actually have MORE alcohol than a shot of hard liquor.

**MYTH 3:** You can tell if a friend is drunk by looking at him.

**REALITY:** Judgement is the first thing affected when someone has been drinking and important motor skills are next. Even one drink can impair someone's ability to drive. Someone's physical appearance can be misleading

# ***More Myths of Drinking and Driving***

**MYTH 4:** I'm OK...I've only had 1-2 beers...I only live a few miles away...I can make it.

**REALITY:** You may feel alright, but the alcohol has already impaired your reflexes, motor skills, and thought processes. If you drink and drive...it's only a matter of time before you are stopped and taken into custody or kill someone. Is it really worth it?

**MYTH 5:** If arrested, I'll hire the best DUI attorney in town to defend me.

**REALITY:** A cop with an establish DUI arrest/conviction record, training, and experience will always prevail in court.

# YOUR OPTIONS

- Continue to drink and drive

*“I can handle it...I’ve done it for years!”*

***...or...***

- Opt not to drink if you intend to drive
- Find a designated a driver before you drink
- As a last resort...
  - Call a cab! (*cheaper than court costs*)
  - Call a friend, supervisor, anyone! (*Free*)
  - Call AADD for help! (*Free*)

**Arrive Alive**

**Don't Drink & Drive**